

Biography

A case study

Cruz Alonza. Born April 25, 1918, La Cienda Arriba, Guanajuato, Mex. To U.S. (Kansas) 1919, 9 months old.

1921, to Stockton

School in Stockton area until 15 years old, 1933, when family returned to Mexico ~~1934~~ 1937: 18 years old, returned to U.S. alone. Passed the border simply by stating he was an American citizen. There was no attempt to check the illegal entry. People just walked across. There was no need to wade the Rio Grande and be a "wetback." At this time, Cruz was in doubt as to his real citizenship. His mother maintained that he had been born in the U.S. His father maintained his Mexican birth.

1938: Cruz, 20, and Rose Buso 18, an American citizen, began living together in Fillmore, Calif. They followed the crops: Visalia, Woodlake, San Jose.

1939: To Mexico to work in the cotton. In Juarez, Mexico, their first child, Esperanza was born. This child died soon afterwards in Palacioz, Durango, Mexico.

1940: To San Jose Calif. Again no passport. Just walked across the border right in front of the border patrol. No questions asked.

1941: Second child, Lupe, born. Followed crops through same towns as before.

1943: Again to Mexico to visit mother of Cruz.

1943: Rose 6 months pregnant so bus lines would not sell her a ticket. Cruz came alone. This time Border Patrol more vigilant. Cruz comes across on contract to last till the end of the war. Cruz applied to be conscripted in the army. He was refused because of his doubtful citizenship.

~~1944~~ In the meantime, Rose had a child, Hortensia -- died in Juarez, Mexico, 1944.

1944: Rose rejoins Cruz in Visalia. They follow the crops -- Visalia, Hanford, San Jose, Woodlake.

1945: Richard born. To Stockton.

1946: Richard died. Rosemarie born.

1948: Connie born. To Los Angeles for construction work.

1950: Back to Stockton for tomatoes. Cruz caught after breaking a warehouse while drunk. Convicted of felony received 18 months. While Cruz in jail, son Joe born. Died at 9 months.

1951: Cruz free.

1952: Frances born.

1954: Cruz, jr., born. Cruz does one month in jail, drunk driving. Immigration department apprehends Cruz and gives him until February to leave the country.

Cruz is now 36 years old, his wife Rose is 34. They have in the meantime been married ~~in~~ by the church. They have had 9 children in 15 years of marriage. Five are living. The last four children were born in the county hospital. The family received public assistance only while Cruz was in jail.

~~Cruz~~ The oldest child is a 16 year old girl.

Cruz has spent all but four years of his life in this country, working at agricultural labor.

Was deported in 1954. Appeals began. Catholic priest assisted in negotiations with Governor's pardon assistant, Mr. Babich.

1955: Wife visited Cruz in Mexico.

1956: Tommy born.

1957: Tommy died. On same day, notice came from Babich that okay to admit Cruz under visa.

Family now living in Stockton. Model citizens. Still working in fruit. (earns up to \$30/day working as a team.)

Biofaghy

1. My name is Lupe Alonso. I am now 17 years old and am a jr junior at Edison High school. I have 5 brothers and sisters. I started working with my father and mother as I can remember when I was about 10 years old. I am the Oldest child. My mother and father always sent me to school, however I worked during the summers with them and also on weekends.
2. I have worked in prunes, cotton, string beans, onions, strawberries, apricots, tomatoes, cherries, potatoes.
3. I have worked in Colusa, San Jose, Slawhouse, Imperial Valley, Sunnyvale, Lodi, Stockton, Bacon Island, Celinga, Huron.
4. I am studying in school History, English, Typing, Spanish, Student Service, Coral work.
(A man told my uncle this)
5. We are thinking about going to Colusa again this year. We hear that the man says they have fixed up the house a little. That is good because they were very bad. Lots of cracks, many mosquitos and flies. Rest rooms dirty
6. I havent helped my father shake trees. Boxes had to be rounded full. I made about 30 boxes when I went fast.
7. In the prunes we got up about 5:30. I helped my mother with breakfast, 6:00 to orchard. Unless no boxes we worked until about 12. Generally took an hour for lunch. Worked again until six. Sometimes after supper until dark.
8. Almost all the time in strawberries there were no rest rooms or water to wash hands. Hour of work were generally from to 7 to five.
9. We are going again. I dont mind the work itself so much but the thing that I dont like is that we have to work so long and and at such fast steady rate to make aby any money, but even then it is not too much. But most of all I dont like the mosquitos and the flies, the dirty rest rooms, and sometimes none, and the small hot cabind.